In Memoriam

Ray Bradbury finished his keynote speech, shook some hands, then dropped by a much smaller room to listen to some poetry.

He leaned in the door, smiled at the right time. Afterwards he said he could use some coffee. Did anybody want to join him?

So much like him -- easy-going, generous, available. "Mess around after you get your work done," he said. A young woman wrote that down in her journal.

That sound you hear is not the wind, not a car rushing by. It's the present dressed in its usual momentary extravagance.

It's the sand in an hourglass; it's the few minutes before midnight.

The colors on this gorgeous stained glass window will last a long time. But not forever.

Take the advice of somebody who knew what he was talking about, and mess around after you get your work done.

Ron Koertge South Pasadena Poet Laureate 2020